



school of  
understanding

compassion is our compass



## School of Understanding

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The School of Understanding will be a unique, independent school opening in the 2015 - 2016 school year.

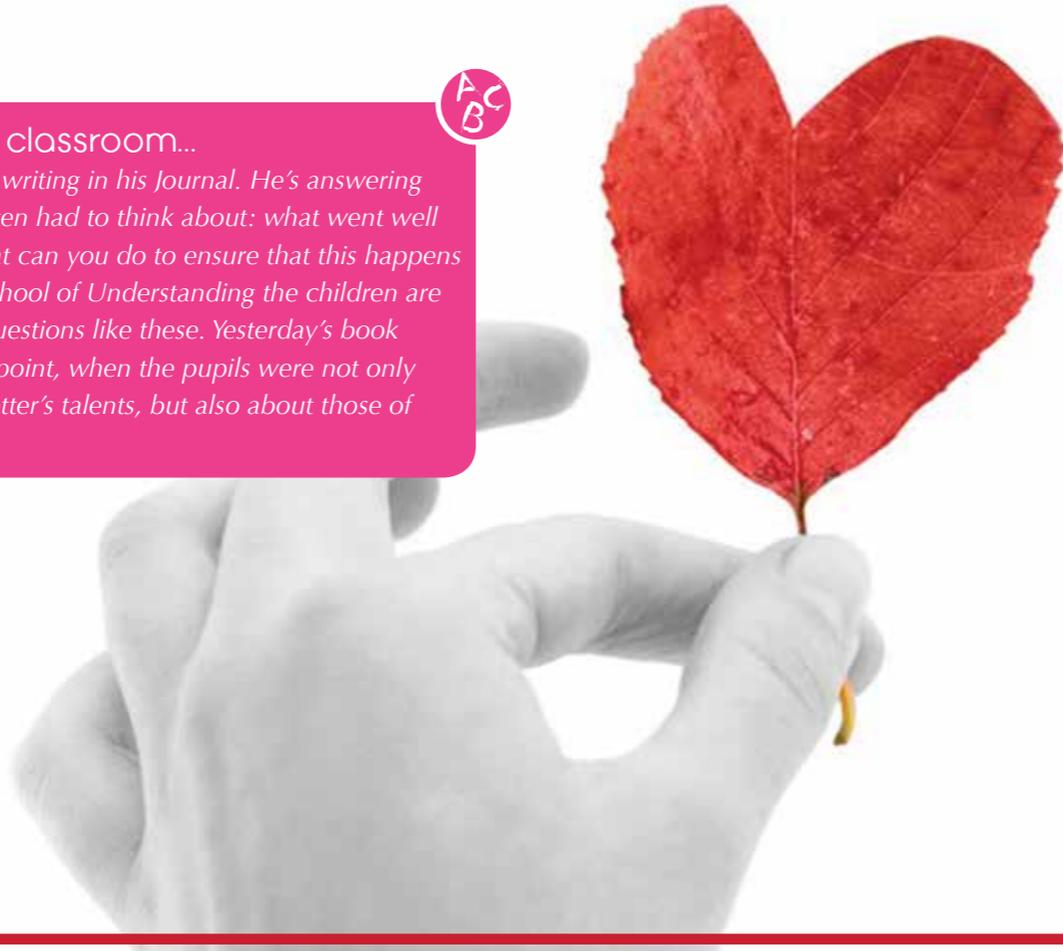
At our school children will learn to be assertive and will be stimulated to think about themselves and others around them. They will be encouraged to respect differences, to occupy their own individual space and to allow others to do the same.

The children will learn about responsibility, how to be happy with themselves and how to bring happiness to others.



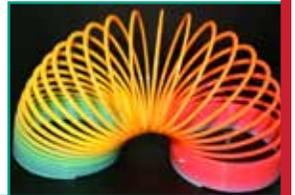
### A look into the classroom...

*Justin's day begins by writing in his Journal. He's answering questions that he's often had to think about: what went well yesterday? Why? What can you do to ensure that this happens more often? At the School of Understanding the children are often asked special questions like these. Yesterday's book review was a case in point, when the pupils were not only asked about Harry Potter's talents, but also about those of Draco Malfoy.*



## Dynamic Learning

*Each pupil has his or her own familiar spot in the classroom, a set place to work. However, the children will regularly sit somewhere else, on their own or together with others who are at the same level in their work. Plans and ideas about the Mastery Challenge will be discussed with other children who are working on a similar Challenge. All designed to help children be wiser and grow up happy.*



At the School of Understanding our pupils will discover the power of being optimistic. They will learn how optimism can help them deal with challenges, to cope with disappointments and to continue to grow and get the best out of themselves.

The School of Understanding challenges its pupils to cultivate their unique talents and qualities: to develop their own Mastery. All through interesting projects that enable children to push boundaries as an individual and as a group while they are growing up.

Our pupils will be taught in two languages: Dutch and English. Using the world's best proven teaching methods. From Singapore maths to the International Primary Curriculum.





ABC

**A look into the classroom...**  
*Pieter has the Tower of Hanoi in front of him. A test in a puzzle that measures his powers of organization. His score last time could have been better, so he had some extra training in thinking strategies. And he is now reaping the rewards as he has no problem solving the exercise. And the new thinking strategies help him to plan his week better as well...*



**Mastery Challenges**  
*It's fun to be really good at something! So pupils work on Mastery Challenges throughout their time at school. Brain-stretching assignments in subjects of their own choice. The goal is to help each pupil to outdo themselves and to surprise everyone with what is possible. If they want to be a pilot, cartoonist or simply make the world a better place - it all starts with the Mastery Challenge...*



Learning is something each pupil does at his or her own pace. In line with the individual development and with goals set between pupil and teacher. There are the usual subjects but also learning to learn, learning to reflect, learning to work together and learning to be productive.

All sharing the same goal: that if you grow up as a happy child, you are able to make a compassionate contribution to society. Because a better world starts with happy children.



## Reflection

*Friendship, understanding, empathy, responsibility, perseverance: this is just a handful of the important topics that are discussed together in the classroom. First, in 10 minute lessons, followed by regular reminders of what has been discovered throughout the school day. The aim of this is to broaden the pupil's vision of the world, both near and far.*



## Parent involvement

The School of Understanding wants to have a real connection with the pupils' parents. To join together in surrounding the children with all the care and attention they deserve. In addition to parent meetings, inspirational Parent Learning Evenings are held regularly, enabling parents to obtain insights into the principles and methods of the School of Understanding. Parents are also invited to share their knowledge, skills and other useful input, to support, for example the Mastery Challenges.



## A look into the classroom...

*In group 6 Adrienne logs into the pupil tracking system to see this week's goals. Up until group 5 she would receive a daily summary of her programme on paper. But now she's learned how to look it up for herself. Some of her goals are 'set', others are decided upon together between Adrienne and her teacher.*





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For more information and a schedule of our information evenings,  
visit: [www.schoolofunderstanding.nl](http://www.schoolofunderstanding.nl)  
If you have any questions, please e-mail us at:  
[info@schoolofunderstanding.nl](mailto:info@schoolofunderstanding.nl)